

Stabberinglender

(Stump [as in tree stump] reinlender)

Alix first learned this reinlender at a festival in Brekken, east of Røros, Norway, in the late 1970s. "Ringlender" is the name for "reinlender" in the Røros area. The dance is widely known in the Røros area, with a number of different variants of which this is the most unusual. A "squarer" variant is done in Røros whenever reinlender is played – it is usually called Rørosringlender.

The name Stabberinglender (STAHB-beh-RING-lehn-der) actually refers to a specific piece of music. In the US Alix originally chose to present the dance to an alternate piece of music due to the necessity of presenting all dances from one recording. It is considerably faster than reinlenders from Røros, and it is not from the Røros area.

Music: Heilo HO 7012 (LP) or HK 7012 (cassette) Side A/1. "Fire skilling". 2/4 meter. The dance can be done to any reinlender. 2/4 meter.

Formation: Ptrs face with M back to ctr; M R and W L hands joined at shoulder level, elbows bent and down. Free hand on hip, thumbs fwd.

Steps and styling: Reinlender step (1 to a measure): Step on designated ft (ct 1), step on the other ft (ct &), step on designated ft (ct 2), lift (ct &). Repeat in next meas with opp ftwk.

Step-lift (2 to a measure): Step on designated ft (ct 1); raise and lower heel of that ft (ct &); repeat with opp ftwk (cts 2,&).

Turn position: Shoulder-waist, or M can raise L hand to W shoulder blade.

Throughout the dance, each step is done with a down-up motion caused by flexing and stretching the ankles and knees (svikt). The action is primarily in the ankle, with the knee reacting in a natural way. The style is somewhat smoother than standard Norwegian reinlender, having subtle bounces. It still has one bounce on each count, however.

Footwork described for M, W use opp ftwk.

Meas Movement

4 notes introduction. No action.

I. IN LOD AND BACK

1 Moving in LOD (CCW), M does one reinlender step to L. Bring joined hands fwd twd LOD between the ptrs at about shoulder level. The joined hands may bounce in time with the music. Begin sideways, but body turns toward LOD as the joined hands move fwd.

2 (ct 1) Step-lift in RLOD, returning joined hands to original position and facing ptr.

2 (ct 2) Repeat the previous 3 counts.

3

4 Repeat ftwk of meas 1, but take turn pos with ptr at the end of ct 1. Start to turn CW as a couple on ct 2, while progressing in LOD. End with M facing LOD.

II FAST CW TURN

5-8 Dance reinlender turn (8 cts, 4 turns) End facing LOD.

III SLOW CCW TURN

9 (ct 1) Transition: Step-lift on R turning about 1/4 CW (ct 1, &).

9 (ct 2) to 16 (ct 1)

Dance 7 reinlender steps, turning CCW. There is about 1/4 turn on the first one, and also about 1/4 on the last. Otherwise, there is 1/2 turn per measure.

16 (ct 2) M does step-lift on R in RLOD. Change to position (inside hands joined) to start the dance again.

My interpretation of the original form of the dance is that it had three parts:

- A. An opening figure done 2-3 times.
- B. Turn CW fast until the end of the phrase.
- C. Turn CCW slowly for the next phrase.

The transitions could be done in many different ways, the M just made them work. The transitions coincided approximately with musical phrase transitions. In fact, most people I saw doing the dance would not be confused by music that had phrases of unusual length. This general pattern of the dance gives rise to a number of variations, such as the ones listed below.

In recent years, I have also danced with many older men, each of whom has his own variation of the dance. Sometimes there are two walks and two reinlender steps in the opening figure, sometimes there is no CCW turn. Some dancers have special ways of doing the transitions. It is common for the M to walk backward in LOD when transiting to the opening figure or to the CCW turn.

The pattern of a non-turning opening (a "promenade"), followed by a fast CW turn, then a slower CCW turn is common in many parts of Norway for old-time dance (gammeldans) variants.

SOME VARIATIONS

1. Do the opening figure a full 3 times before starting to turn (that is, start turning one measure later, on the 2nd ct of meas 5).
2. Start the reverse turn on ct 2 of meas. 8 (one measure earlier). You will be on the other ft at the end of the dance, so you'll have to figure out some way to start the dance again (you can take 2 steps in the last ct).
3. Start CCW turn on ct 1 of meas 9. Start M moving backward, W forward. End with a step-lift on meas 16, ct 1, and another step-lift (as described above) on meas 16, ct 2.
4. Do the transition by stopping the turn on ct 2 of meas 8. Start the CCW turn by man stepping bkwd in LOD on ct 1 of meas 9 (no hop).
5. Dance meas 4 straight fwd, holding nearer hands; M does reinlender step L. Dance meas 5 as a reinlender step straight fwd; M does reinlender step R. Start CW reinlender turn on ct. 1 of meas 6. The last ct of the CW turn is ct 2 of meas 8. Begin CCW turn on meas 9, ct 1, and dance to end of phrase (there will be no transition at the end, i.e. 8 full meas of reverse turn). This variation is probably the most usual way of performing the dance, and sometimes goes under the name Rørosreinlender.

Variation 1 can be combined with 2 or 3. Similarly, in 5, the transition into the reverse turn may be moved by one ct (either earlier or later), but you will have to find a way to end the dance in these cases. In 5, the M can also start the CCW turn by walking bkwd in LOD on L (ct 1 of meas 9) and on R (ct 2 of meas 9), then a reinlender step in meas 10. The walking steps are quite flat and gliding, without hops.

Presented by Alix Cordray